

Due to the hiring freeze resolution adopted on June 2, 2008, I requested a meeting with the Oversight Committee to fill seven vacant positions. I presented the committee with three positions, which we requested last September in order to keep up with the increase of workload from the Child Support Bureau. We were unable to fill these positions until now because of the renovations and the fact that the Child Support Bureau recently started sending over large volumes of work to be processed. I would like to address the Budget Committee about these positions as well as the others.

The letter attached is the response that I received from Mike Lewis explaining why these positions were denied by the Oversight Committee. The letter states that filling these positions will create an over budget situation due to the lapse time restriction, however, the Shelby County Finance Department submitted the Juvenile Court Clerk's Office FY 08-09 budget with a lapse time of \$500,000 without my approval.

I am only requesting to fill positions, which are necessary for the day to day operations of the Clerk's Office. In the past, I have complied with all the requests made by the Commissioners and I have made cuts whenever possible. As you know, last September I requested an increase in personnel due to the Child Support Bureau receiving additional staffing.

In addition, an article in the Commercial Appeal mentioned that Public Safety positions would not be affected by the hiring freeze. This allowed for the Sheriff's office to fill their vacancies but not us. Three of our positions are public safety positions and instead of using the Sheriff's Deputies for Bailiff's and Process Officers, we employ Commissioned Officers who do the same work with less pay.

At this time, I am requesting to appeal the decision made by the Oversight Committee and to meet with the Budget Committee of the Shelby County Board of Commissioners.